

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for tracking facsimile jobs, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

(a) determining whether ~~the~~ a return message is associated with ~~the~~ a prepared message that originated at ~~the~~ an originating device, and

(b) in response to an affirmative ~~determination~~ determining in step (a), interpreting the return message as an incoming message not intended for printing and processing the return message according to a first predetermined configuration of the originating device including disallowing printing of the return message;

whereby in response to a negative ~~determination in step (b)~~ determining, an incoming message is interpreted as a valid message intended for printing and is processed according to a second predetermined configuration of the originating device.

2. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 1**, wherein the determining further comprises ~~the step of detecting the presence of information indicative of the error condition in the return message.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 2**, further comprising ~~the step of reporting the arrival of the return message by use of an error reporting mechanism.~~

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 1**, wherein the return message includes first information indicative of ~~[[its]]~~ a destination address and

second information indicative of ~~[[its]]~~ an originating address, and ~~the method~~ further comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

comparing the first and second information;

in response to the ~~comparison~~ comparing, interpreting a match of the first and second information as being the result of a round-trip job which originated at the originating device and which is intended for printing; and

in response to the match of the first and second information, processing the return message according to the second predetermined configuration.

6. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 1**, wherein ~~the transmitting step further comprises~~ including transmitting the prepared message as a facsimile communication over a telephone network.

7. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 1**, wherein ~~the transmitting step further comprises~~ including transmitting the prepared message as a facsimile communication over a wide area network.

8. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 1**, wherein ~~the transmitting step further comprises~~ including transmitting the prepared message as an Internet facsimile message over the Internet.

9. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 1**, wherein ~~the preparation of~~ preparing the prepared message further comprises embedding indicia in the prepared message, with such indicia being suitable for subsequent examination by the originating device in order to determine whether the return message originated from the originating device.

10. (Original) The method of **claim 9**, wherein the embedded information is provided in the form of a plurality of redundant indicia.

11. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 1**, wherein the

~~distinguishing step~~ determining further comprises ~~the step of~~ extracting information indicative of an error condition from a plurality of locations within the return message.

12. (Currently amended) The method of **claim 11**, wherein the ~~extracting step~~ further comprises extracting information indicative of an error condition from within at least one of a message header, a message identification, an envelope identification, a Delivery Status Notification (DSN), and a Message Delivery Notification (MDN).